

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
15 September, 1976

AM

10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION

A. Swearing In of Hon. J. Carter Brown, Hon. Victorine du Pont Homsey, Hon. Eli S. Jacobs, and Hon. Frederick Doveton Nichols.

B. Dates of next meetings: 28 October, 1976
18 November, 1976

C. Minutes of July, 1976 meeting.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

Pennsylvania Avenue Preservation Plan.

B. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Notification of Delay in Demolition, 401-417 7th Street, N.W.

C. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 76-66, 1919 F Street, N.W., New Office Complex - Discussion.

2. SL 76-73, 5196 27th Street, N.W., New Single-Family, Three-Story Dwelling.

3. SL 76-74, 800 Maine Avenue, S.W., Addition of New Solar Energy System.

4. SL 76-65, 515 15th Street, N.W., Washington Hotel Window Replacement.

5. Appendix 1.

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 76-202, 3000 M Street, N.W., Construction of Hotel, Office, and Commercial Building - Resubmission for Final Approval.

2. OG 76-210, 1049 30th Street, N.W., New Hotel, Office, Retail, and Residential Multi-Story Structure - Preliminary.

3. OG 76-212, 3231 Prospect Street, N.W., New Commercial, Residential, and Office Building - Preliminary.

4. OG 76-213, 3255 Grace Street, N.W., Rehabilitation of Existing One-Story and Mezzanine Structure.

5. OG 76-214, 1024 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Addition to Existing Apartment Building - Preliminary.

6. Appendix 2.

D. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Site "E" Development, Southwest Waterfront - Resubmission.

E. Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park

Beaver Valley Project - Final Designs.

F. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

101st Airborne Division Memorial - Revised Design for Base.

G. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

1. Chief Justice Burger Medal.

2. Chief Justice John Jay Medal.

3. Charles Carroll Medal.

4. General Charles E. Yeager Medal - Resubmission.

5. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Employee Awards.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

7 September, 1976

P R E S S R E L E A S E

On Wednesday, September 15, 1976, at 10:00 a.m., the Commission of Fine Arts will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at its offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. The meeting will begin with the swearing in of five members of the Commission: the Honorable Victorine du Pont Homsey of Wilmington, the Honorable Eli S. Jacobs of Los Angeles, California, and the Honorable Frederick Doveton Nichols of Charlottesville, Virginia to their first four-year terms; and the Honorable J. Carter Brown of Washington, D.C. and the Honorable Edward D. Stone, Jr. of Fort Lauderdale, Florida to their second terms.

A tentative agenda for that meeting is attached.

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1976

Memo to: Executive Secretary
From: Chairman *JS*

Pursuant to the regulations in 5 USC 2903 (b)(1), please administer the oath of office to the incoming Members of the Commission at their first meeting September 15.

Attachment

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEP 14 1976

NOTED *JS*

*meeting
file*

Stat. 502. The words "Secretary of Commerce" are substituted for "Secretary of Commerce and Labor" on authority of the Act of Mar. 4, 1913, ch. 141, § 1, 37 Stat. 736. The words "under the departmental seal" are substituted for "and the departmental seal affixed thereto". The words "any laws to the contrary notwithstanding" are omitted as unnecessary. The last sentence of section 14 of the Act of Mar. 3, 1875, is omitted as executed.

In subsection (c) the words "and shall be" and "any laws to the contrary notwithstanding" are omitted as unnecessary.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

Notes of Decisions

Generally 1
Signature 2
Term 3

1. Generally

Proof that an individual has acted notoriously as a public officer is prima facie evidence of his character, without producing his commission or appointment. *Jacob v. U. S.*, C.C.Va.1821, Fed. Cas.No.7,157.

2. Signature

A commission should show upon its face that it is the commission of the President but his actual signature is not necessary. 1898, 22 Op.Atty.Gen. 82.

3. Term

Where a new commission is accepted it supersedes the old one; and the four

years, prescribed by law as the official term of the appointee, must commence to run from its date, but the bonds taken under the first commission cease to have effect when the commission terminates. 1830, 2 Op.Atty.Gen. 233.

Where an act of Congress gives the President power to appoint an officer, without defining the tenure by which the office is to be held, a commission may legally issue to the officer to hold the office during the pleasure of the President. 1818, 1 Op.Atty.Gen. 212.

A commission for a term of years gives to the officer no greater legal right to the office than though it ran "during the pleasure of the President." *Howard v. U. S.*, 1887, 22 Ct.Cl. 303.

§ 2903. Oath; authority to administer

(a) The oath of office required by section 3331 of this title may be administered by an individual authorized by the laws of the United States or local law to administer oaths in the State, District, or territory or possession of the United States where the oath is administered.

(b) An employee of an Executive agency designated in writing by the head of the Executive agency, or the Secretary of a military department with respect to an employee of his department, may administer—

(1) the oath of office required by section 3331 of this title, incident to entrance into the executive branch; or

(2) any other oath required by law in connection with employment in the executive branch.

(c) An oath authorized or required under the laws of the United States may be administered by—

(1) the Vice President; or

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
15 September, 1976

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
 Hon. Victorine Du Pont Homsey
 Hon. Eli S. Jacobs
 Hon. Frederick D. Nichols
 Hon. Kevin Roche
 Hon. George A. Weymouth

Staff Present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
 Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
 Miss Lynda Brown
 Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
 Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
 Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
 Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher

National Capital Planning
Commission Staff Present: Mr. Robert J. Hefferon

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Swearing In of Members. Hon. Victorine Du Pont Homsey, Hon. Eli S. Jacobs, and Hon. Frederick D. Nichols, three new members of the Commission of Fine Arts, and Hon. J. Carter Brown, who had been reappointed, were sworn in by the Secretary for their terms of office.

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as: 28 October, 1976 and 23 November, 1976 (Tuesday). The regular meeting day was changed from Wednesday to Thursday.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

Pennsylvania Avenue Preservation Plan. The Secretary explained that this was being presented for information only and introduced Mr. Lee Allen, an architect with the PADC. Mr. Allen outlined the Corporation's preservation plan, not as yet approved by the Board. Well established landmarks, including the Treasury, Washington and Willard hotels, the Evening Star building, the Apex Liquor Store, National Bank of Washington, the old buildings on F Street between 8th and 9th Streets, Matthew Brady's studio and the old Tariff Commission building, would

remain in place. Other buildings, of lesser importance but of some interest, such as the storage warehouse across from the FBI Building on 10th Street, would be retained in place where possible. Single buildings of merit in new construction areas would be torn down, their facades stored, and later re-erected on Pennsylvania Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets or in the 7th Street area between the Avenue and the old Tariff Commission building on F Street. Mr. John Woodbridge, Director of PADC, was asked about the status of the Willard Hotel. He replied that there are no funds for it yet and may not be until April. He said there is a possibility that the Government may acquire the building.

No action was required on this presentation.

B. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Notification of Delay in Demolition, 401-417 7th Street, N.W. This project was also presented by the Secretary for information only, and is related to the first project because the buildings in question are on that part of 7th Street covered by the PADC's preservation plan. The Secretary reported that the Landmarks Committee has instituted a delay in demolition on these buildings in the hope that some use can be found for them, and he explained for the benefit of the new members that the District Government now has the power to do this in the case of buildings on the Landmarks List or located in historic districts. The Assistant Secretary added that the city also has this power in regard to subdivision of landmark sites or historic districts.

No action was required.

C. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 76-66, 1919 F Street, N.W., New Office Complex, Discussion. The Secretary announced that there were several persons present who wanted to speak in regard to this project, which was reviewed by the Commission at its previous meeting. He introduced Dr. Lloyd Elliott, President of George Washington University. Dr. Elliott summarized the University's concern for historic preservation in this block, citing his directions to the architect to preserve the three landmark structures: the two Lenthall Houses (only one of which is owned by the University) and the Ray House, now the F Street Club, which would be relocated at 610 21st Street. The architect, Vlastimil Koubek, pointed out these structures on a plan and Dr. Elliott noted that the University is negotiating with the F Street Club to provide facilities so that they could continue to use the building in its new location.

Dr. Elliott then discussed his university, its character, and its financial situation. He said that over the past twenty years George Washington University has assembled property in the area, piece by piece, in order to have a more identifiable campus, thus benefiting both the University and the community. He noted that this must be done at the seller's convenience, which takes both time and money. He observed that the traditional picture of the college campus - the large areas of green grass, the trees, and the playing fields - does not apply to George Washington and cannot, because of its urban location; but he said that in the past ten years the University has been building small patches of greenery throughout the campus and Mr. Koubek has been asked to incorporate this same amenity in this project. Dr. Elliott stated that he felt this garden space has added a human scale to the high-rise development that an urban campus almost necessitates. He said that since 1970 the University's expansion has been in accordance with its master plan, approved in that year by the National Capital Planning Commission.

Dr. Elliott closed by telling the Commission that the University is by no means heavily endowed; this source covers only about one half of one per cent of its operating expenses. He said it was his hope that the University's valuable land could function as a sort of endowment, so that the 80 per cent of the expenses now paid by the students would not have to be increased. He stated that this project is "absolutely necessary to the financial stability of George Washington University."

The next speaker was M. Bernard Chadenet, a vice president of the World Bank. He gave the members a brief account of the Bank's growth from its organization thirty years ago to its present position as the largest money lending institution in the world. He said it now has six buildings in Washington, a staff of 4,400, and is still short of space; while its growth is slowing down, it is continuing, and another building is a necessity. M. Chadenet stated that the Bank does not want to go to the suburbs as it must be near the State Department, embassies, and hotels. Even a site several blocks away would not be desirable as it would be too inconvenient for the staff. As to the aesthetic aspects of a new building, M. Chadenet emphasized that while most of the staff are not Americans, they consider themselves Washingtonians and are anxious that their new building enhance the city as well as provide needed space. He said the Bank feels that the historic buildings on the site are important and should not be considered a "headache" in the design process. He also stated that the president of the Bank, Mr. McNamara, feels that the building should be austere in design to reflect the austerity of the Bank and that its architecture should be of the highest quality, to reflect the aspirations of the Bank.

The architect, Vlastimil Koubek, spoke next, reviewing for the

members the zoning situation in the area and saying that the C-4 zoning which would be requested for the block (presently zoned residential) would not be out of keeping with other buildings already in the neighborhood. He said the nature of the property ownership in the block and the Bank's program requiring many outside offices dictated the T-shaped building. Energy problems also had to be considered, as did the achievement of a restrained and elegant design. In order to coordinate all these elements and arrive at the best possible solution, Mr. Koubek said he had asked Pietro Belluschi to be his design consultant and Hideo Sasaki his landscape architect. He noted that he had tried to avoid a massive appearance by the use of balconies and sunshades which would give the building a crisp and delicate effect as well as conserving energy.

In regard to the Commission's criticism at the last meeting of the open space at the corner of 19th and G Streets, the demolition of the row houses on G Street, and the resultant loss of small scale elements at street level, Mr. Koubek said that he liked the open space at the corner and did not feel that the small townhouse scale was really characteristic of the area; nevertheless, he had prepared three renderings showing alternative solutions. One showed new houses built next to the Lenthall Houses with the G Street houses preserved; the second showed a modern three story building in place of the G Street houses and the corner open space; and the third a pavilion on the corner in place of the open space.

Pietro Belluschi was introduced and commented that there was a conflict of values here which must be resolved. It was his feeling that while loss of scale is undesirable it can hardly be prevented. He said that buildings should not be preserved just because they are old, but only because they are good. He felt that preserving the Lenthall Houses was a challenge but could be done with a really well-designed garden. The houses on G Street he considered little more than slums and wondered if keeping them would really preserve the character of the area. He did not think leaving these few facades could be compared to the situation which existed on Lafayette Square.

Mr. Koubek then pointed out to the members that his building did not come right out to the street, but was set back at the first floor level with space for arcades and gardens for pedestrians. He also remarked that the future of the church at the corner of 20th and G Streets is uncertain and said that the owners, who may move to another church, are going to ask for C-3B zoning at the same time that George Washington University requests its zoning variance, so there is a possibility that an office building may replace the church in the near future.

Mr. Sasaki said the designers faced a dilemma; they, too, wanted to retain the nineteenth century scale of the block but had to solve their client's problems. He said the G Street row would be worth saving

if it could really preserve the character of the street, but he noted the potential destruction of the church and the fact that the block to the east has already lost its nineteenth century character. He said the only way he could think of to provide a human scale in the area would be by creating small open spaces and parks throughout the campus.

Ms. Karen Gordon, a representative from the student Committee for the Campus, organized to preserve the F Street Club, said she thought it possible for the University to keep the houses, serve the World Bank, and keep its financial stability. She felt that in its policy of destroying the old structures on the campus and erecting massive blocks of buildings the University was not fulfilling its obligation to its students or to the community.

Mr. Koubek then discussed the plans for moving the F Street Club, minus its two later additions, to the mid-block location on 21st Street. A kitchen would be provided in the basement, and there would be a terrace in the back and perhaps a sunken garden. In answer to the Chairman's question about moving the F Street Club to the corner space at 19th and G, he said that this would not work well if the Club is to continue to use the building. He also said the Bank needs that space for a pedestrian connection to its other buildings. A third reason given for not locating the Club on this corner was that its cornice line is considerably higher than that of the Lenthall Houses.

The Chairman then asked M. Chadenet if it would be fair to say that this building would not take care of the future needs of the World Bank. M. Chadenet replied that he could not give a definite answer to that question, but he could say that the growth of the Bank was definitely slowing down. He anticipated the building would be adequate for the next ten to twenty years.

The Chairman then said to President Elliott that while he agreed that George Washington could never be a green campus in the traditional sense, it did have the possibility of a tree-lined setting. He also assured the President that the Commission was sympathetic to the University's problems and was not trying to stop development or turn the clock back.

Dr. Elliott replied that he recognized that there was a difference of opinion here, and that he did not think that either the city or the University would gain by creating "instant history". He said that after looking at alternatives he thought a beautiful garden would bring back a human scale in the area that the retention of the G Street houses would fail to achieve. He noted that the two small public parks on Pennsylvania Avenue in the campus area, which are so important to the inhabitants, had been allowed to deteriorate; he said that George Washington plans to create more of these small "postage stamp" parks to

supplement the public spaces and will keep them well-maintained.

Ms. Betts Abel of Don't Tear It Down was introduced. She remarked that she was pleased by the Commission's previous recommendations on this project. She said that research is being done on the G Street houses and they are definitely not slum buildings. She noted that moving the F Street Club would replace yet another significant townhouse, but she was later corrected on this by Mr. Belluschi who said that the building she referred to would not have to come down. Ms. Abel also commented on the zoning requested by saying that the C-4 category is not a logical extension of the zoning in the area. She closed by emphasizing that her organization is not against development as such in this block, only against this project as presented.

After all interested persons had been heard the members discussed the project. The Chairman said he was troubled by the identity of George Washington and wondered if the University really wanted a commercial image. He felt that in this project the key question is the treatment of the open space and the relationship of the small houses to the 130-foot-high building. He did not think that the corner garden as presented solved the problem, as the optimum would be to let the 19th and G Street houses be mutually reinforcing by a visual line turning the corner; and liked the architect's suggestion of new low scale development next to the Lenthall Houses. Mr. Roche said he did not like this as it seemed to be merely a lobby for the Bank. He felt that the space should be a public garden instead, and suggested that a garden with walls tying it to the buildings on either side would probably be the best solution. Mr. Roche commented to Mr. Koubek that if too much space was lost by keeping the G Street houses, it could probably be recouped by eliminating the six-foot setback and the balconies and by changing the shape of the building. Mr. Koubek said he was reluctant to eliminate the balconies because of the energy saving they afforded and did not want to change the shape of the building because it would create too many interior spaces. He also stated that the Bank would lose valuable computer space in the basement if the G Street houses were retained. The Chairman suggested that perhaps only the facades could be kept, although Mr. Roche felt that if the houses are to remain they should be kept as real structures. He commented that the point in keeping them is not just because of their scale, but because they are there. If they didn't exist he would not insist on small scale development along that street; since they do, it should be possible to accommodate them. The Chairman suggested to the architect that he accept the old buildings as givens and work around them. He said that the client's program cannot be based on the maximum possible development; it must be flexible just like the design. Mr. Koubek said he was not asking for the maximum - just a FAR of 7, rather than the maximum of 10.

Mr. Kirk White of the District Planning Office asked to comment at this point, in order to correct a statement made by the Chairman

earlier in the discussion. The Chairman said that he had spoken to the Mayor's representative on the Zoning Commission, who had told him that the Zoning Commission was interested in seeing if there was some way in which the G Street houses could be retained, and thought a solution was possible. Mr. White said the Chairman had spoken with Mr. Gilbert, who is the Director of the Planning Office, not a member of the Zoning Commission. He stressed the fact that the Zoning Commission has not yet heard the case, and that it will be happy to receive the views of the Commission of Fine Arts, but that it will make the final decision in the matter.

In summary, the Chairman told the architect and his client that in a formal submission the Commission of Fine Arts would look for the following factors: (1) the preservation of the Lenthall Houses; (2) the treatment of the adjacent space in such a manner that an open amenity for the city would be provided and the scale of the Lenthall Houses tied to that of the G Street houses, and (3) the setting back of the new building on G Street so that the townhouses would be retained. He said that further studies for the new building would be reviewed on the basis of merit. The members were unanimous in agreeing to these proposals. No action was required by the Commission as this was only an informal submission.

EXHIBIT A

2. SL 76-73, 5196 27th Street, N.W., New Single-Family Three-Story Dwelling. Mr. Carson explained to the members that there are actually three three-story houses planned for this project, but only one was being presented at this time. It would be 43 feet high, white painted brick on the first floor, and grey wood siding above. Mr. Carson reminded the members that the Commission had, in June 1975, approved three other similar houses on an adjacent site which have since been built. The site was originally part of a large estate. He showed slides and pointed out that the potential effect might be too urban for the rugged, heavily-wooded area which has a thirty foot drop in grade down to 27th Street. He also mentioned that many fine old trees would have to be destroyed to put three houses on the property and that there are possible drainage problems. He recommended that the Commission see an accurate topographical survey of the site and a landscape proposal before taking any action.

Three of the neighbors, Mr. Jeffrey Bolotin, Mrs. Jean E. Fleming, and Mr. Frederick Fleming, were introduced. They felt that the houses were much too large and high above the street and that they would destroy the beauty of the site; they added that other neighbors were in agreement with them. Mr. Charles L. Covell, Jr., the owner and builder, replied that he has been very concerned with maintaining the beauty of the site. He mentioned difficulties in siting such as holding the driveway grades to the maximum 12% allowed, and also said he could not put small, less costly houses on such expensive lots. The architect, William Shoemaker, said the houses will not be as bulky or loom so high

as they appear on the elevation drawings. He noted that they would occupy only 26-28% of the site and that 40% lot coverage is allowed.

The Chairman told the parties involved that the Commission would make a site inspection before coming to any decision. Because of the length of the meeting a site inspection was not possible, so the members unanimously agreed to request a model and an accurate topographical survey before taking any action.

3. SL 76-74, 800 Maine Avenue, S.W., Addition of New Solar Energy System. The Secretary reviewed this project for the members, saying that it is a pilot project, funded by the Energy Resource Development Agency, to acquire data on solar energy systems. He observed that the question which arises relative to the Commission's review of such installations is whether they should be looked at as just mechanical equipment or whether they are elements of the architecture. He felt that this particular installation showed no attempt to tie the solar panels to the architecture and thought that it should do so.

Joseph Wohlmuth, an architect with the Marriott Corporation, explained that the arrangement of the panels shown on the drawings, that is, leaning against the upper part of the roof, was the most functional. In answer to a question, he replied that the installation would be permanent. The members unanimously agreed with the Secretary that the panels should be integrated with the roof system. Mr. Wohlmuth said this could be done and agreed to resubmit the project.

4. SL 76-65, 515 15th Street, N.W., Washington Hotel Window Replacement. The Assistant Secretary explained that this project is part of a general upgrading of the hotel and consists of the replacement of old wood sash with bronze trimmed metal windows. The current aluminum colored metal sash on the 15th Street side of the first floor would be painted a bronze color. The Commission approved the project unanimously.

5. Appendix 1, approved.

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 76-202, 3000 M Street, N.W., Construction of Hotel, Office, and Commercial Building - Resubmission for Final Approval. The Secretary told the members that this submission was for approval of windows: double-hung, double-glazed metal windows with detachable muntins on the inside. He said the Georgetown Board had seen similar windows installed on the Georgetown Inn and did not approve them because of their appearance. Mr. Wheeler, the owner, stated that they were the finest windows available; but Mr. Vanderpool, one of the Georgetown Board members, said that the difference between these and the tra-

ditional wood windows, with muntins that are an integral part of the window, is definitely discernible. He also thought that the clip-on muntins were flimsy and would probably not hold up. Mr. Wheeler disputed this, and the Chairman was in favor of allowing the windows to be used. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Roche both thought that the difference could be seen; and Mr. Roche, after questioning the architect as to whether thermopane could be used with traditional muntins, asked what the Georgetown Board would recommend. Ms. Anne Vytlačil, a Board member, said that since Mr. Wheeler had been insistant on a traditional building, the Board had recommended that he use the traditional wood sash used on his hotel adjacent to the site of the new building. The Chairman then called for a vote, and the members of the Commission voted, in a split decision, to allow Mr. Wheeler to use the metal windows. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Roche voted against their use. Complete working drawings are to be submitted prior to issuance of final permits.

2. OG 76-210, 1049 30th Street, N.W., New Hotel, Office, Retail, and Residential Multi-Story Structure - Preliminary. The Assistant Secretary showed the members a model of this project, which would be located on the C. & O. Canal across from the Duvall Foundry. The townhouses on 29th and 30th Streets would remain as would a small industrial building on the Canal.

Mr. Robert Morrison, the owner, and Mr. Peter Vercelli, the architect, were introduced. Mr. Morrison told the members that he wanted to build a true Georgian inn of the highest quality. He said he had planned to build only the inn at first, but later purchased the adjoining site for an office and apartment building. He said he had been in contact with the National Park Service throughout the planning stages as the building would be on the historic canal. In discussing the design Mr. Vercelli said that while the two buildings bear no relationship to each other stylistically - the inn being traditional and the office/apartment building modern - they are related by the space which joins them and by the fact that they would both be brick, although of different varieties. He said there would be a contemporary gatehouse next to the townhouses on 30th Street, and mentioned that the canal area would remain as it is.

Mr. Grosvenor Chapman, an architect representing the Citizens Association of Georgetown, spoke next and said he had first seen this project the day before and there had been no agreement on it with the Citizens' Association. The Association's only requirement at this point was that it not exceed four stories in height. He also commented on the fact that there is as yet no plan for the waterfront, no sense of urban design, and noted that the area was in danger of undergoing a hodge-podge of development.

In discussing the project, both the Chairman and Mr. Nichols remarked that the design of the inn represented a period considerably

earlier than that in which Georgetown was developed. Mr. Nichols said that it was characteristic of country houses of tidewater Virginia rather than the city architecture of Georgetown. He asked the architect why he wanted the huge roof, and Mr. Vercelli replied that he liked the appearance and preferred the set back afforded by the slope of this roof to a straight-sided four-story building on this particular site.

The Commission was generally pleased with the design of the modern office/apartment building, although there was a feeling that there was some overdoing of the horizontal bands of brick and glass. The project was not approved at this time, and the District Government was advised, "Do not issue permit."

3. OG 76-212, 3231 Prospect Street, N.W., New Commercial, Residential, and Office Building - Preliminary. The Assistant Secretary reviewed this project, which the members had seen previously, and pointed out that the height of the building on Prospect Street had been reduced, as recommended, and the mass of the building redistributed.

Mr. Tobey, an architect with Metcalf Associates, discussed the changes. He said the Prospect Street building no longer contains any office space, this and some residential space lost because of the height reduction having been transferred to other sections of the project. The height of the western part of the Prospect Street building was reduced by one floor, that of the eastern section by two. He also pointed out the changes in massing - the western section was now moved forward and the eastern set back.

The Chairman commented to the new members that this was the first large commercial project north of M Street and said he was pleased with the changes. The Assistant Secretary mentioned that the design was still in a very preliminary stage.

Mr. Chapman also commented on this project. He said it was a landmark decision for the area north of M Street and reminded the Commission that it could control height beyond what the zoning law specified for this area. He considered this project an example of the commercial development which is taking advantage of a pleasant, historic town and destroying it. He did not think it would be any sacrifice for the developer to keep the total height to 40 feet.

Charles Greenwald of Kraftco, the owners of the property, said they realized there would be restrictions when they undertook this project and were pleased with the revised design and lower height as presented by their architects.

The Commission recommended that the facade on Prospect Street be restudied to keep, at least visually, the 40 foot height. The District

Government was advised, "Do not issue permit."

4. OG 76-213, 3255 Grace Street, N.W., Rehabilitation of Existing One-Story and Mezzanine Structure. This project, previously seen by the Commission, involves remodeling an old power plant for use as office space. The architect, Elliott Gitlin, explained that the old factory sash would be replaced by contemporary windows, and the interior remodeled. The tall smokestack would remain, as recommended by the Landmarks Committee. The Georgetown Board and the Commission both preferred to see the stack torn down, as the building will no longer have an industrial use. Other than this objection the project was approved unanimously.

5. OG 76-214, 1024 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Addition to Existing Apartment Building - Preliminary. The Assistant Secretary reported that the Georgetown Board had reacted very unfavorably to this project, which is a four-story addition to an existing apartment building. The objection was that the mass of the building would have an adverse effect on the small Cherry Hill row houses behind it and cut off nearly all of the sunlight.

Peter Schwartz, the representative for the owner, Leonard Greenberg, said the project does not violate any zoning requirements; both the lot coverage and square footage are far below that allowed. Only the height is at maximum. He said they had considered the possibility of building a motel on the property or a new and larger apartment building, but rejected both solutions as too drastic for the site. He felt this addition to the existing building was the best possible development because it would not be visible from either K or M Streets, would keep the present building intact, and would allow new construction to proceed without disrupting other buildings nearby. He thought the Commission members should ask themselves four questions before disapproving the project: (1) Was the Dodge Center Building (south of the proposed addition) stopped because of height? (2) Is the light blocked of any real significance? (3) Are there any landmark buildings in view of this structure? and (4) Are there any alternatives which would have less impact?

Mr. Roche asked if it would be possible to cover more of the site and reduce the height. Mr. Schwartz said this would not be possible unless the existing building were razed. The Chairman said he thought a site inspection was necessary before taking any action. After this inspection the members voted unanimously to disapprove the project as presented, as proposing too much development for the site. The District Government was advised, "Do not issue permit."

6. Appendix 2, approved.

D. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Site "E" Development, Southwest Waterfront - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary pointed out, on a model, the additional story on the commercial building and the reduction in the size of the prow-like structure on the restaurant roof. Mr. Roche thought the Commission had asked the architect to remove this structure; in any case, the members all agreed that its design was not up to standards and the project was disapproved.

E. Smithsonian Institution

Installation of "Delta Solar" West of National Air and Space Museum. The Secretary told the members that this sculpture, by Alejandro Otero, was a gift from the Government of Venezuela and the Secretary of the Smithsonian, S. Dillon Ripley, had requested, through a letter to Congress, that it be placed on the Smithsonian grounds to the west of the Air and Space Museum. Slides of the site were shown and it was explained that the sculpture, approximately 48 feet at its base and 27 feet high, is a tubular steel structure with stainless steel "sails" within the framework which rotate in the wind and reflect the sun. Mr. Weymouth wondered if it would get enough wind and sun in the proposed position for it to be effective, and the Chairman suggested a site inspection before taking any action. At the site the members unanimously approved the erection of the sculpture, but suggested a site, off axis, parallel to Independence Avenue, to help screen off the street and enhance the green open space.

F. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

101st Airborne Division Memorial - Revised Design for Base. The revised design was unanimously approved as submitted.

G. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

1. Chief Justice Burger Medal. The portrait on this medal was shown as a photo montage; a resubmission was requested showing the sculptor's version. It was also suggested that the star shown below the seal on the reverse was awkward and might be replaced with the words "of America".

2. Chief Justice John Jay Medal. Again, this was a drawing only, and a sculptor's version was requested.

3. Charles Carroll Medal. This is to be a reissue of an old medal updated by the addition of a date to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Carroll's signing of the Declaration of Independence. The members thought it a very handsome medal and unanimously approved its

15 September, 1976

13.

reissue.

4. General Charles E. Yeager Medal - Resubmission. The design for this medal was revised to that the airplane, originally on the obverse, was placed on the reverse with the lettering. In spite of some reservations about the portrait, the design was unanimously approved.

5. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Employee Awards. This is an adaptation of the present medal using the agency's new name. The design would also be used for lapel pins. It was approved unanimously.

H. Old Georgetown Act Submission not on the Agenda

OG 76-211, 1070 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. This presentation was for a four-story infill structure previously approved by the Georgetown Board. The members suggested that the cornice line be emphasized slightly, but approved the preliminary design unanimously, with details working drawings and material samples to be submitted to the Georgetown Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

August 18, 1976

Dear Mayor Washington:

As noted on the editorial page of this morning's Post, and on the CBS television channel in prime time last night, the Commission is involved in reviewing George Washington University's plans for the development of a large office building at 19th and G Streets, N.W. The Commission strongly urged that the old buildings on the site be incorporated into the new scheme, much in the same manner as the offices on Lafayette Square.

We have just learned that the University has applied for the demolition of at least two of the buildings on the block, an action which we feel would seriously diminish the chances for the best urban design.

I hope the city will not issue the permits necessary for demolition, at least until we have had a chance to review the University's plans and to discuss the matter with their architects at our next meeting on September 15. This would also give the Zoning Commission and the Municipal Planning Office a valuable opportunity to comment on the plans as well.

It should be emphasized that the University is seeking a major rezoning of the site, an action that would permit approximately twice the development presently allowed.

The Commission feels that if George Washington University is to be granted the privilege of a substantial increase in development through rezoning, they in turn have the obligation

Exhibit A.

Mayor Washington

Page 2

August 18, 1976

to provide the best possible design for the city. In our view this entails a design with a decent human scale, a quality that will be a lot easier to achieve if the existing buildings on the site are retained.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable
Walter E. Washington
Mayor of the District of Columbia
520 District Building
14th & E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON

13 September, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

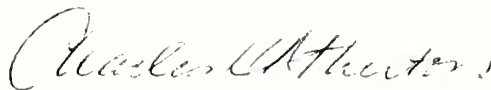
I understand you have some reservations about the bus advertising legislation that comes up for final reading and a vote on Wednesday the 15th.

The Chairman sent you a note on the same subject on July 26, assuming it was scheduled for action on the following day. It wasn't, so I am taking the opportunity to send you another copy.

Incidentally, Metro is considering yet another invasion of public space with commercial advertising. On August 3 we attended a meeting with Mr. Quenstedt and Senator Gravel, among others, to consider a proposal to introduce privately owned bus shelters which would be financed solely by advertising displays. The shelters would not only be placed on Washington streets, but would also extend to the metropolitan region.

As Chairman of Metro's Board, as well as of the D.C. City Council, I hope you can apply the brakes before this whole business of advertising in public space gets out of hand.

Sincerely yours,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Hon. Sterling Tucker
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
District Building
14th & E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

July 26, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hope the Council will give a second thought to the bus advertising legislation before it acts on it tomorrow.

It is not that the specific proposals are so bad in themselves, it is what they may eventually lead to. A proliferation of outdoor advertising, whether it be on the rear or sides of buses, or the tops of taxis or other fixed or moveable forms, is not good for this city--aesthetically or economically.

The idea that the revenues generated from this advertising will help offset the Metro deficit is misleading. Even if the optimistic estimates come true, that one percent of the deficit can be met in this way, the economic impact can only be measured as it affects the city as a whole. The beauty of this city is a very real part of the economic picture. Diminish it, and you will diminish the economic health of Washington far more than the small gains to be made for the benefit of Metro's financial position.

The legislation is designed to benefit a special interest group and not the city or people of Washington. We urge you not to approve it.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable
Sterling Tucker
Chairman
Council of the District
of Columbia
District Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

15 September, 1976

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
SL 76-66	1919 F Street, N.W. George Washington University	12-story office building.
<u>ACTION:</u>	See attached letter. 8/4/76	
68	1419 22nd Street, N.W. E. D. Coates	Sign 14" x 20 1/2", brown and white.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Issue permit. 8/9/76	
69	499 South Capitol Street, S.W. Marfair Joint Venture	Landscape development plan (resubmission refer to SL 76-43).
<u>ACTION:</u>	Landscape development plan approved. Request material samples be submitted with application SL 76-43. 7/30/76	Issue permit for construction of office building as submitted for review. 7/30/76
70	1716 H Street, N.W. D.C. Government	Rental of public space for sidewalk cafe.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Issue permit. 8/24/76	
71	11 D Street, S.E. William H. Boswell	One story addition to rear of house off of kitchen.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Issue permit. 9/9/76	
72	515 15th Street, N.W. Gal-Tex Hotel Corporation	Change window to door for entrance to personnel office.
<u>ACTION:</u>	Issue permit. 8/24/76	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

15 September, 1976

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 76-185	1101 30th Street, N.W. National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation	Addition and alteration (confirmation of working drawings, resubmission refer to OG 76-115).
ACTION:	Issue permit. Request submission of exact brick and mortar colors, wood and finish samples, glazing and muntin samples, and any ground level landscaping prior to construction. 8/4/76	
186	3409 M Street, N.W. Abdul Q. Baig	Nail wood letters on wall.
ACTION:	Issue permit for sign comprised entirely of upper case letters. 8/11/76	
187	3231 Prospect Street, N.W. National Dairy Product Corporation	Remove existing garage building.
ACTION:	Issue permit for demolition. Though preliminary designs as shown to Board and Commission are moving in the right direction, some additional massing study is desirable to reduce by one story the height along Prospect Street, which should not exceed 40 feet to the cornice line. 8/4/76	
191	3210 Grace Street, N.W. Restaurant Management, Inc.	Renovation of existing building and addition to become a restaurant.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Restudy retaining existing character and masonry openings of this building. Sand blasting not recommended for the soft brick of this structure. Redesign of Grace Street entrance and removal of garage door permissible. Designs of addition within courtyard space should include all facades, materials, and details. The addition may be of a harmonious but different character from the existing structure. 8/4/76	
192	2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Georgetown Plaza Associates	Hotel and office structures with central plaza and commercial shops at plaza and mezzanine level (resubmission refer to OG 76-164).
ACTION:	Preliminary designs approved. Request submission of working drawings and all material samples prior to issuance of permit for new construction. 8/4/76	
193	2813 Olive Street, N.W. J. Robert Engelen	Alterations and repairs to south wall per drawings (north side (rear) cannot be seen from public space).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Door and side light revisions are approved. L-shaped slot guest room window not recommended. Suggest restudy with conventional window. 8/26/76	

15 September, 1976

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
OG 76-194	3052 P Street, N.W. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lavine	Rebuild existing rear addition.
ACTION:	Issue permit. Provide muntins in windows to match existing sash. 8/26/76	
195	1336 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Christian Science Reading Room	Canvas awning.
ACTION:	Issue permit for awning omitting valence, matching adjoining awning. Green fabric is approved. 8/11/76	
196	3299 M Street, N.W. Peter Ball	Install 10" x 34" sign. New glass entrance door, new concrete steps (resubmission refer to OG 76-99).
ACTION:	Approved per revised plans. 8/13/76	
197	2621 P Street, N.W. Beatrice Enzel	Replace existing awning.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend new canvas awning to replace non-conforming metal awning. Request submission of new design. 8/11/76	
198	3227 M Street, N.W. John M. Dashtara	3' x 7' outside sign.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. No objection to single sign as proposed, provided all other non-conforming signs are removed from exterior of building. 8/24/76	
199	3014 O Street, N.W. Mrs. Halsted N. Wilcox	Enclose and enlarge an existing rear porch and add small wooden deck and trellis to side of porch (resubmission refer to OG 76-181).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/26/76	
200	3401 K Street, N.W. Whitehurst Associates	Install heating-cooling system for tenant space occupied by Garfield Studio. Outdoor unit to be located on roof and completely screened per plan.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/3/76	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

15 September, 1976

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
OG 76-201	1073 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Robert A. Joy	Move sign from present location at 1209 31st Street, N.W. to new store location.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/11/76	
203	M Street, Wisconsin Avenue, and C. & O. Canal, N.W. D.C. Realty & Development Corporation	Modify group of existing warehouse, factory, and office buildings into a unified shopping mall (resubmission refer to OG 76-149).
ACTION:	Issue permit. Submit all material samples and designs of any proposed alterations to M Street or Canal facades. All exterior signs, lights, and mechanical equipment shall be reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts prior to installation. 8/27/76	
204	1213 33rd Street, N.W. Jane Brauchen	Replace rear wood porch (size to remain the same) with new steel porch.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/26/76	
205	3343 P Street, N.W. William Donahue	Addition of areaway for access to existing basement.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend study of alternate locations for this entrance stairway. If there is to be a further submission, please show details and spacing on items such as railings. 8/26/76	
206	1258 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. The Store Ltd. (The Design Store)	Installation of sign consisting of raised wood letters painted black, over existing awning.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/26/76	
207	3064 Q Street, N.W. Charles B. Marvin	Remove existing brick rails from front stoop, cover existing concrete steps with brick, erect new iron rails.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/26/76	
208	1420 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Simon & David Krupsaw	1' x 10' sign, single faced: 10 square feet.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/26/76	
209	1420 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Simon & David Krupsaw	3'6" x 5' sign, single faced: 15 square feet.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 8/26/76	

15 September, 1976

PROJECTNO. ADDRESS AND OWNER

OG 76-

211

1070 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.

Thomas Jefferson Associates

Construct new four-story structure.

ACTION: Approved as preliminary design with four bay windows on Thomas Jefferson Street. Submit detailed working drawings and material samples as they are prepared. Also indicate materials of soffit, exterior lighting, and signage proposed. 8/26/76

215

1054 31st Street, N.W.

Richard Bernstein

Alterations of interior partitions.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Returned for additional information. Indicate exact location of proposed changes from 31st Street. Question visibility of interior elements and lighting from 31st Street in both the waiting room and the attendant's area. 9/9/76

216

3112 M Street, N.W.

Richard Bernstein

Alteration - interior partitions.

ACTION: Issue permit. 9/9/76

Jun 23, 2017

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